

HOUSE RESOLUTION 292

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and celebrate the 142nd anniversary of
Pickett-Rucker United Methodist Church.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to the dedicated members of those exemplary religious organizations who, through their hard work and dedication, have enabled their churches to stand the test of time to serve as examples for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Pickett-Rucker United Methodist Church are most assuredly one such extraordinary group of people who are deserving of special praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, this year, the church's congregation will celebrate its 142 years of positive influence in the Lebanon community and the many different mission points by which they have helped to carry the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, the momentous occasion will be commemorated on March 29-30, 2008, with a banquet held at Baird's Chapel on the campus of Cumberland University on March 29 which will feature Dr. Lisa Miller as the keynote speaker; the anniversary celebration will conclude on March 30 with Pickett-Rucker Chapel member Pauline Davis Holmes as the speaker; and

WHEREAS, the celebration will be a time of reflecting on the past, giving thanks for the present, and eagerly anticipating the future; and

WHEREAS, Pickett-Rucker has weathered life's storms for over a century and continues to pursue the higher calling of God in Christ Jesus; and

WHEREAS, the church's history began on July 18, 1866, when a group of approximately thirty members came together and decided a new place of worship was needed; and

WHEREAS, the group purchased Seay Chapel and, after this purchase, the group became an organized church and joined the Central Jurisdictional and Tennessee Conference; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Calvin Pickett was Pickett-Rucker's first pastor and the church was named Pickett Chapel Episcopal Church in honor of him; and

WHEREAS, after 107 years in this building, construction began on a new building under the guidance and leadership of the current pastor, Reverend T.G. Rucker; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, the new building was finished and on March 18, Reverend Rucker led the congregation out of the historic, original building and into the current location on Glover Street; the newly constructed church was Rucker Chapel United Methodist Church after Reverend Rucker, and later, was renamed as the Pickett-Rucker United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, 142 years since its founding, Pickett-Rucker stands today as a welcoming fellowship, striving to be faithful in worship, discipleship, and reaching into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ; it continues to grow and prosper as an institution of time-honored family values and selfless love; and

WHEREAS, during its illustrious and long history, forty-two pastors have served the congregation; Pastor Stephen Handy, Sr., presently functions as the pastor; and

WHEREAS, during the past fourteen decades, the members of Pickett-Rucker United Methodist Church have taught each other and the people of the community to love one another and to give selflessly to the stronghold of the fortress of God; and

WHEREAS, the past has been good to Pickett-Rucker, and the future promises continued blessings for the good people who comprise the membership of the church's congregation; and

WHEREAS, religious organizations such as Pickett-Rucker United Methodist Church are truly the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times, and the members of this fine congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby pause to honor and congratulate the congregation of Pickett-Rucker United Methodist Church on the celebration of the church's 142nd anniversary and extend to each member of the congregation our best wishes for continued happiness in service to the Lord.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.